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**Supply Chain Executive Summary**

**Bolstering the Supply Chain: Keeping Supplies Robust During Complex Global Events**

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Masks. Hand sanitizer. Ventilators. Testing kits. Drugs to keep fevers down and secondary infections at bay. The distribution of all these items has been imperiled by COVID-19. As global supply chains bow under the weight of the disease because of factory closures in major manufacturing countries like China, the effects of supply chain disruptions may spread as quickly as the disease itself.

However, Northeastern is home to recognized experts in resilient supply chain structures who can help advise best practices for keeping chains robust even during times of economic and workforce-related upheaval. We have expertise in forecasting, predictive analytics, risk management, post-crisis recovery of networked systems, and supply chain management. We can advise on reconfiguration of supplies to meet evolving needs and how to manage seamless transitions between the natural and virtual worlds. We can work with medical facilities in developing nations, helping them to treat patients in respiratory distress with inexpensive tools and lightly trained staff. And we can help companies and agencies turn their factories into COVID-19 equipment producers and spaces into makeshift medical facilities.

Further, supply chain issues go beyond products to encompass labor force implications for workers, such as the people that will buoy the healthcare system and treat patients during the pandemic. To boost the supply chain of healthcare providers, Northeastern experts can conceive strategies such as bringing back retired professionals to assist with management of situations and lead younger providers.

The current pandemic is, and will be, long-lasting. But with philanthropic funding, faculty researchers at Northeastern are studying and disseminating in real time what makes supply chains agile and what makes them fragile. Additional resources to spur their discovery can uncover the precise features of resilient supply chain structures that can be used as lessons for rebuilding the future.